

1 1-2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment
2 releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support
3 for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:

4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing
6 support for new features and platforms;

7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;

11 c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch; and

13 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
14 release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and
15 platforms;

16 ~~The release control method of claim 1~~ wherein the pre-tested software module is
17 received at a pre-integration branch that is separate from the early development
18 branch, and wherein the committing step comprises committing pre-tested
19 software modules for new features and platforms from a pre-integration branch
20 into the early development branch.

1 4-8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
3 features and platforms, comprising:

- 4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new
6 features and platforms;
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
16 cycles; and
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;
20 The system of claim 8 wherein the logic for committing comprises logic for
21 committing pre-tested software modules for new features and platforms
22 from a pre-integration branch into the early development branch.

1 10-18. (Canceled)

- 1 19. (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment
2 releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support
3 for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:
4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing
6 support for new features and platforms;
7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;

11 c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
14 release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and
15 platforms;
16 ~~A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~
17 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
18 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
19 integration branches;
20 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
21 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
22 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
23 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
24 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
25 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
26 the central pre-integration branches.

1 20. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the
2 step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development
3 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only
4 when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the
5 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment
2 releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support
3 for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:
4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing
6 support for new features and platforms;
7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules

9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
14 release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and
15 platforms;
16 ~~A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~
17 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
18 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
19 branches;
20 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
21 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
22 individually, and in combination with all other features;
23 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
24 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
25 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
26 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
27 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
28 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
29 the central pre-integration branches.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the
2 step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development
3 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only
4 when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the
5 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1 23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium comprising one or more
2 stored sequences of instructions for providing release control using early
3 deployment releases of a software system, the early deployment releases

4 containing support for new features and platforms, which instructions, when
5 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform
6 the steps of:

- 7 a. providing an early development branch of a software release that is
8 designated for incorporation of support for new features and platforms;
- 9 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested
10 source code modules, wherein each of the pre-tested source code modules
11 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
12 platforms;
- 13 c. committing the pre-tested source code for new features and platforms into
14 the early development branch; and
- 15 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development
16 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms.

1 24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23,
2 further comprising the steps of:
3 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
4 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
5 integration branches;
6 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
7 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
8 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
9 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
10 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
11 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
12 the central pre-integration branches.

1 25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,
2 further comprising the step of generating, using the early development branch, a
3 new early development release containing pre-tested source code for new features
4 and platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been

5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development
6 branch.

1 26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23,
2 further comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
4 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
5 branches;
6 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
7 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
8 individually, and in combination with all other features;
9 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
10 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
11 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
12 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
13 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
14 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
15 the central pre-integration branches.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,
2 further comprising the step of generating, using the early development branch, a
3 new early development release containing pre-tested source code for new features
4 and platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been
5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development
6 branch.

1 28. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
3 features and platforms, comprising:

4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new
6 features and platforms;
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
16 cycles;
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;
20 ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:~~
21 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new
22 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-
23 integration branches;
24 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
25 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
26 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and
27 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
28 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
29 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
30 the central pre-integration branches.

1 29. (Previously Presented) A system as recited in Claim 28, further comprising the
2 step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development
3 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only

4 when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the
5 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1 30. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
3 features and platforms, comprising:

4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new
6 features and platforms;

7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;

11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;

13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
16 cycles;

17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;

20 ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:~~

21 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or
22 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration
23 branches;

24 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of
25 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature
26 individually, and in combination with all other features;

27 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the
28 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-
29 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and

30 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-
31 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules
32 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to
33 the central pre-integration branches.

- 1 31. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new
3 features and platforms, comprising:
4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new
6 features and platforms;
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new
10 platforms;
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and
12 platforms into the early development branch;
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of
16 cycles;
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles; and
20 ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of generating, using~~
21 the early development branch, a new early development release containing
22 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the
23 plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the
24 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.